

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A multi-element polycrystal, which is a mixed crystal essentially formed of elements A and B having different absorption wavelength ranges and having an average composition represented by $A_{1-x}B_x$, wherein the element B absorbs light over a longer range of wavelength from a shorter to longer wavelength range than the element A; each of the crystal grains of the mixed crystal has a crystallographic texture composed of a plurality of discrete regions dispersed in a matrix thereof; and the average composition of the matrix is represented by $A_{1-x_1}B_{x_1}$ and the average composition of the discrete regions is represented by $A_{1-x_2}B_{x_2}$ where $X_1 < X < X_2$, wherein X satisfies the relationship $X \leq 0.1$.

Claim 2. (Original) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim 1, wherein said $A_{1-x}B_x$ is $Si_{1-x}Ge_x$.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said X satisfies the relationship: $X \leq [[0.1]] 0.05$.

Claim 4. (Original) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim 2, wherein the crystal grains each have a columnar shape, and the discrete regions are three-dimensionally dispersed in the matrix having strain.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim 1, which is ~~used~~ incorporated in a solar cell. [[,]]

wherein said use includes:

~~incorporating the multi-element polycrystal as a battery of the solar cell.~~

Claims 6-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a multi-element polycrystal, comprising the steps of:

preparing a melt containing multiple elements; and

cooling the melt while controlling a cooling rate and/or a composition of the melt to obtain a multi-element polycrystal, wherein

the multi-element polycrystal includes polycrystalline grains each being formed of a crystallographic texture having discrete regions dispersed in a matrix,

the melt has a composition for a mixed crystal represented by $A_{1-x}B_x$;

the element B absorbs light over a longer range of wavelength from a shorter to longer wavelength range than the element A;

each of the polycrystal grains manufactured has a crystallographic texture in which a plurality of discrete regions having an average composition represented by $A_{1-x_2}B_{x_2}$ are dispersed in a matrix thereof having an average composition represented by $A_{1-x}B_x$ where $X_1 < X < X_2$, and

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X satisfies the relationship $X \leq 0.1$.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]] 9, wherein the element A is Si and the element B is Ge.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein said X satisfies the relationship: $X \leq [[0.1]] \underline{0.05}$.

Claims 13-14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solar cell by using a multi-element polycrystal manufactured by the method according to claim 9, comprising: incorporating the multi-element polycrystal as a ~~battery~~ of in the solar cell.